

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 16, 2001 with claims 1 through 30, of which claim 1 is an independent claim. The present application claims the benefit of provisional patent application 60/183,182, filed on February 17, 2000.

5 In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-10, 11-13, 24-27, and 29-31 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Mitchell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,304, hereinafter, Mitchell), and rejected claims 5-6 and 14-23 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell in view of Tesler (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,578, hereinafter, Tesler). The Examiner indicated that claim 28 would be
10 allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The drawings have been amended to correct typographical and graphical errors. No new matter is introduced.

Independent Claim 1

15 The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Mitchell. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Mitchell discloses two or more visual categories (figure 3: 214, 215), each of the visual categories divided into visual subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, each of the ordered levels of specificity grouped into visual districts containing visual subcategories of the same levels
20 of specificity (figure 3: 215, a-g), where the visual districts are represented as shapes (col. 8, lines 19-47).

Applicants note that, in the text cited by the Examiner, Mitchell teaches that:

25 “GUI 201 represents hierarchical data in a graphical manner which quickly conveys to the user the *hierarchical relationships* which exist between different elements of the data....The graphical hierarchy is accomplished through the use of *scaling, size, placement and color or shading of the various elements* that represent data and their interrelationships.

30 The GUI 201 includes a top node 205 and, for example, seven child nodes 211 through 217 symmetrically arranged in orbit around the centrally located top node 205. Each of the child nodes 211 through 217 is hierarchically related one level below the top node 205 in the data hierarchy, as conveyed graphically by the interface 201. The scaling and
35 size of each child node 211 through 217, as compared to the top node 205,

provides an indication of the hierarchical relationship between each node. Data links 221 through 227 indicate that the child nodes 211 through 217 directly relate from the top node 205 in the data hierarchy. That is, child nodes 211 through 217 are smaller than top node 205 and node 211 is coupled to top or central node 205 via a data link 223 which indicates that it is on a level in the hierarchy below that of top node 205. In other words the child nodes directly relate or depend from a top or central node 205.

In a similar manner, each child node 211 through 217 has, for example, seven respective child nodes A through G which are hierarchically related below child nodes 211 through 217. Again, the lower hierarchical relationship is indicated by the smaller size and scale of nodes A through G, as well as by the interconnection of data links "i" through "vii" which connect "back up" to nodes 211 through 217. *In general, as shown in FIG. 3, top or central node 205 represents the top of the hierarchy, nodes 211 through 217 represent the second level of a hierarchy, and nodes A through G extending "down" from nodes 211 through 217 represent the third level in the hierarchy.*

The view of GUI 201 in FIG. 3 can represent any type of hierarchical or stored data."

(Col. 8, lines 10-48; emphasis added.)

Thus, Mitchell is directed to displaying the *hierarchical relationship between elements*, where the "interconnection represents data links in a computer network, for example." (Col. 5, lines 38-55; emphasis added; see, also, col. 5, lines 5-17.) Mitchell does not disclose or suggest *visual categories* (defined in the specification as semantic structure; page 11, lines 5-6), does not disclose or suggest *visual subcategories* of ordered levels of *specificity that are subdivided from visual categories*, does not disclose or suggest *visual districts* containing *visual subcategories of the same levels of specificity*, and does not disclose or suggest that the visual districts are represented as *shapes*. Independent claim 1 requires the computer GUI further comprising: two or more visual categories, each of the visual categories divided into visual subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, each of the ordered levels of specificity grouped into visual districts containing visual subcategories of the same levels of specificity, where the visual districts are represented as shapes.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Mitchell, and Applicants request the §102(e) rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn.

Rejections to Dependent Claims 2-30

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected dependent claims 2-4, 7-10, 11-13, 24-27, and 29-31 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Mitchell et al., and rejected claims 5-6 and 14-23 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell in view of Tesler. Applicants also submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Tesler, alone or in combination with Mitchell, as Tesler does not disclose or imply at least the limitation in independent claim 1 of each of the ordered levels of specificity grouped into visual districts containing visual subcategories of the same levels of specificity, where the visual districts are represented as shapes. Because independent claim 1 is patentable, dependent claims 2-30, which include all limitations of independent claim 1, are also patentable.

Furthermore, dependent claim 3 adds the limitation of “where the visual districts are represented as concentric shapes.” Exemplary concentric shapes for visual districts are shown in, for instance, FIGS. 3A-3D of Applicants’ specification. The term “concentric” is defined as “having a common center” by Random House Webster’s College Dictionary (1997). Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited art discloses or implies visual districts that are represented as concentric shapes, as claimed in dependent claim 3. Consequently, dependent claim 3 is patentable over the cited art, regardless of the patentability of independent claim 1.

Conclusion

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-30, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin M. Mason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Mason" clearly distinguishable.

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5 Date: December 6, 2004

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend FIGS. 3A-D, 5B, and 15A, as indicated on the attached marked-up copy of original FIGS. 3A-D, 5B, and 15A. No new matter is introduced.



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ALISON LEE et al.
YOR920010157US1 LJP

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

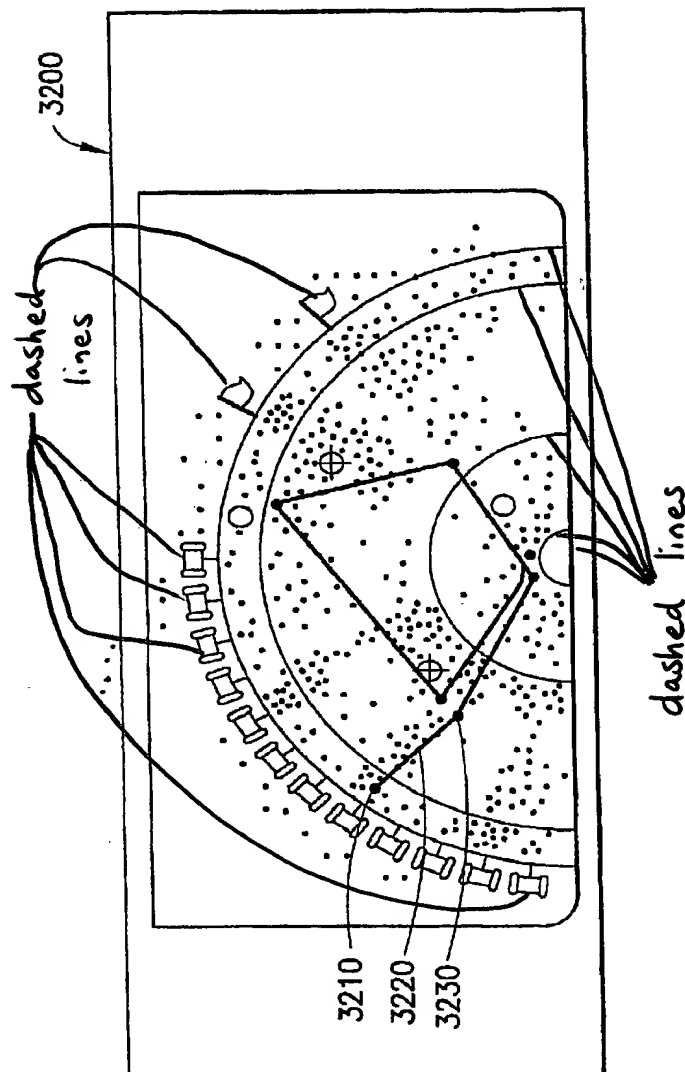


FIG.3B

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

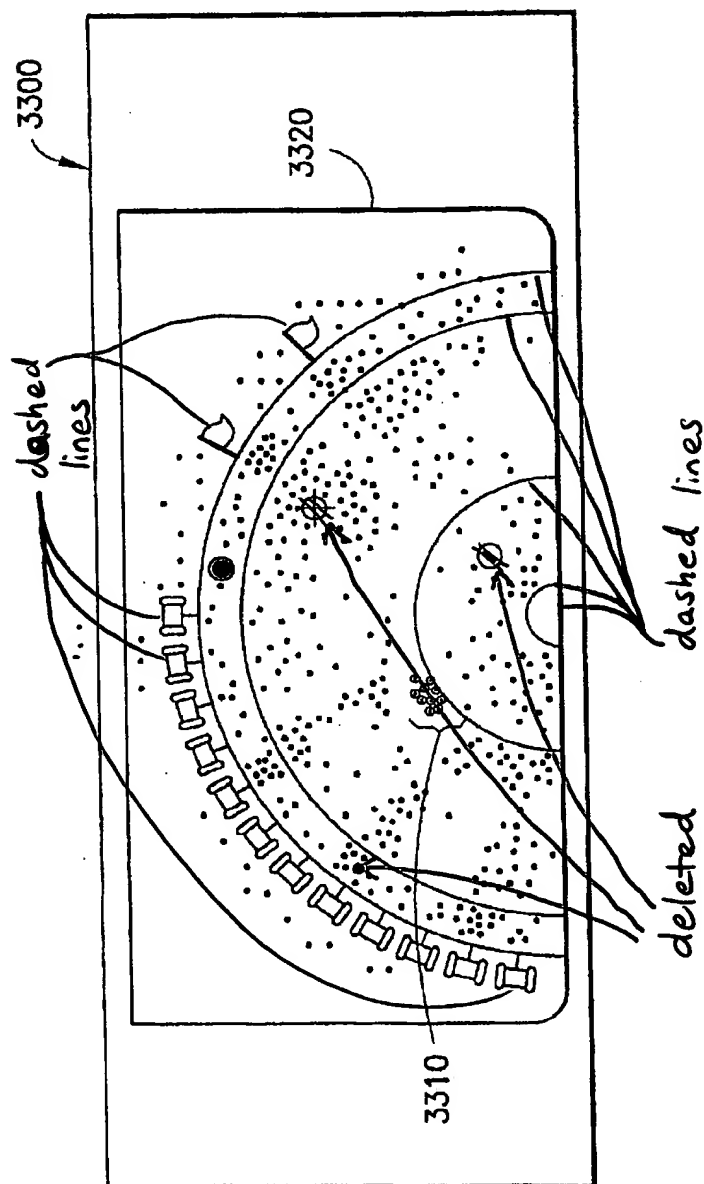


FIG. 3C



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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

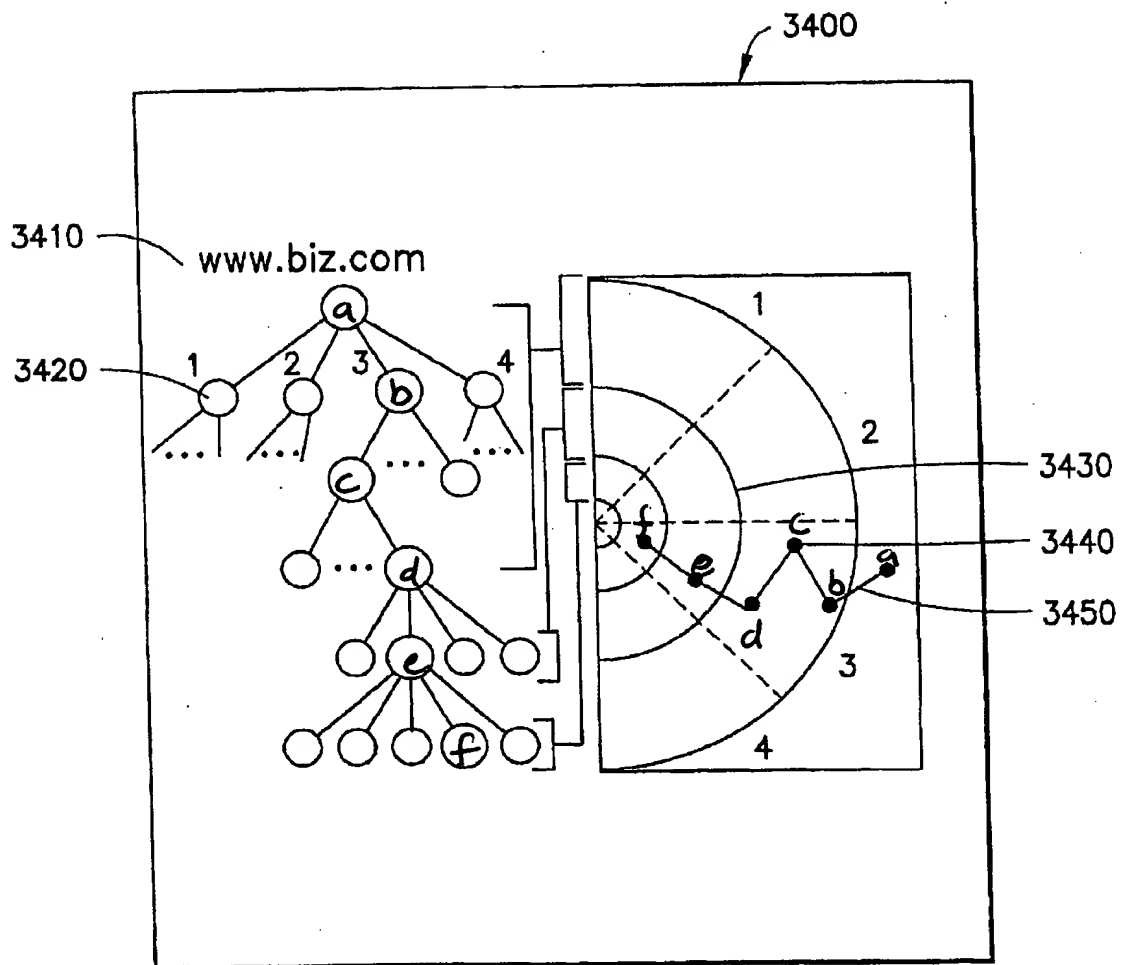


FIG.3D



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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

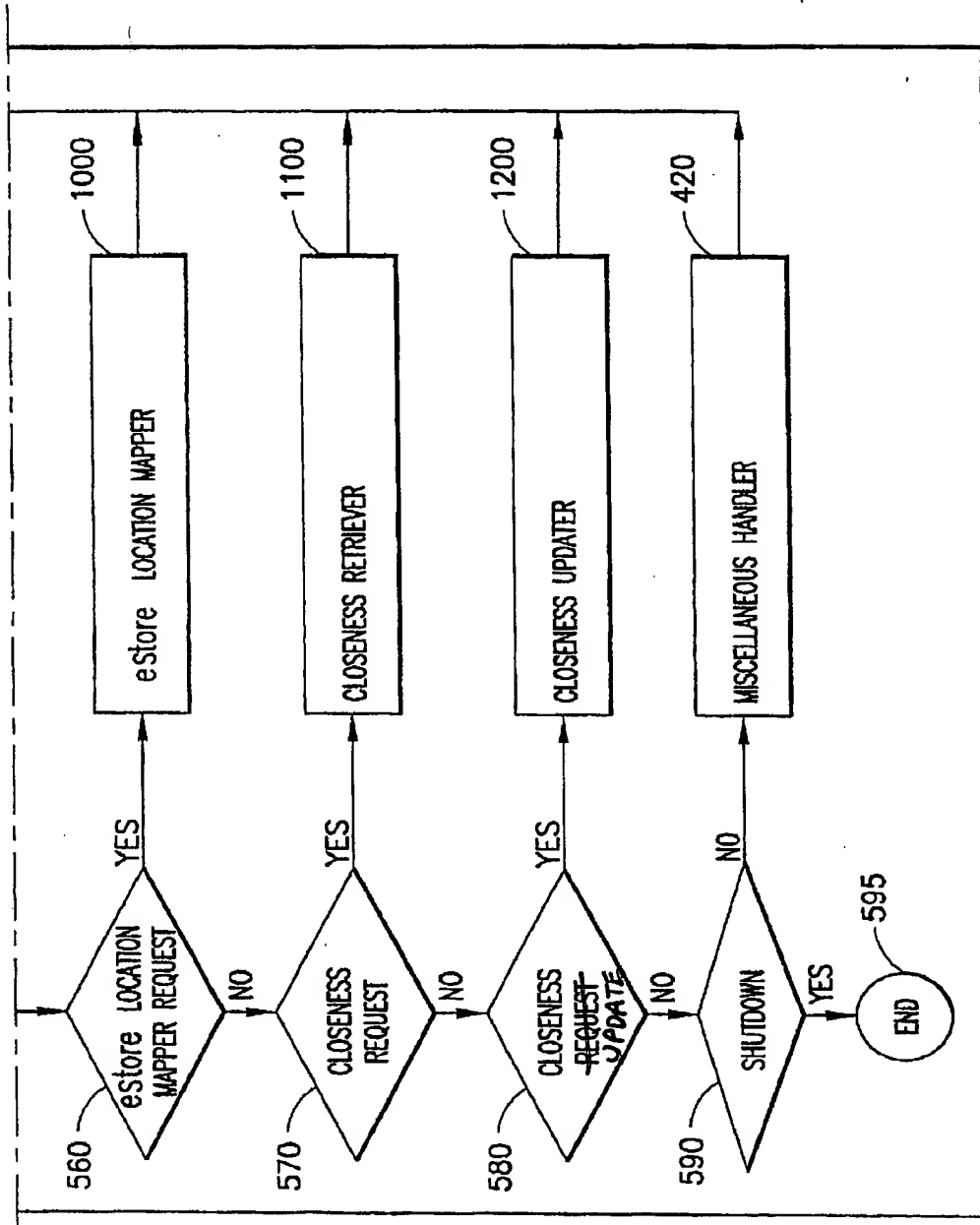


FIG. 5B



Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

